

PUBLIC MEETING

For Lighting the City with Gas and Supplying it with WATER.

In pursuance of a Requisition presented to the Mayor by certain of the Inhabitants of this City, to appoint a Meeting for the purpose of adopting measures for lighting the City with Gas, a Meeting was this day held in the City Hall. Henry Sherwood, Esq., in the Chair, John H. Savigny, Secretary, when the following resolutions were adopted:—

1st. Moved by Mr. Cull, seconded by Mr. Stennett,

That, in consequence of a wish expressed by many influential persons in this City, that a supply of Water for the use of the City should be obtained, as well as of Gas, this meeting take into consideration the supply of Water and Gas.

2nd. Moved by Mr. Gurnett, seconded by Mr. Burr,

That, as it appears from the second report of the Gas Committee with the documents annexed thereto, lately printed for public information, to satisfactorily establish, that Gas Works to the extent therein mentioned may be constructed for the sum of £7000—and as it also appears probable from the statement printed and circulated within the last day or two on the subject of establishing Water Works in this City in connexion with those of Gas, that both Gas and Water Works may be constructed for the sum of £15,000; it is the opinion of this meeting that effective measures be forthwith adopted for establishing those works in this City. Provided the calculations contained in the statement alluded to be found substantially correct, and provided it should be found practicable to raise the necessary funds to carry the same into effect.

3rd. Moved by Mr. Carfrae, seconded by Dr. King,

That, for the purpose of obtaining satisfactory information on these points, namely, the costs of the works, the probable revenues to be derived therefrom, and the practicability of raising the necessary funds for establishing those works, a Committee (with power to add to their number) be now appointed to report the result of their investigations at a general adjourned Public Meeting, to be held in this Hall on Tuesday the 21st day of July instant, at 6 o'clock, P. M., and that the following gentlemen do compose that Committee:—

Isaac Buchanan, Esq.	James Cull, Esq.
George Gurnett, Esq.	J. W. Brent, Esq.
Henry Sherwood, Esq.	W. Stennett, Esq.
W. B. Jarvis, Esq.	G. P. Ridout, Esq.
Clarke Gamble, Esq.	Rowland Burr, Esq.
John Ewart, Esq.	

4th. Moved by Dr. King, seconded by Mr. Brent,

That this meeting adjourn to Tuesday the 21st day of July instant, at 6 o'clock, P. M.

JOHN H. SAVIGNY,

Secretary.

City Hall, Toronto, July 6th, 1840.

The following is the statement referred to, in the second resolution:—

Suggestions to the Inhabitants of the City of Toronto, on the means of supplying them with pure and wholesome Water and Gas Light.

Whilst Merchants and Storekeepers are very naturally desirous of obtaining the advantages of Gas Lights, a large portion of the inhabitants are equally desirous of a supply of good and wholesome Water.

That either or both will produce a profitable return for the necessary capital, no doubt is entertained by those who have examined into the circumstances, and it is admitted by all that the introduction of both would be productive of health, safety and convenience to the inhabitants generally. It becomes necessary that public attention should be directed to the best means of carrying so desirable a measure into effect. The following questions naturally suggest themselves:

1. What will be the necessary outlay? 2. What will be the annual expense. 3. What will be the probable income?

In answer to the first, or the amount of the outlay, the report printed by the Corporation on the subject of Gas Light, and which it is presumed may be fully relied on, makes the expense of the construction of the Gas Works on the highest estimate - £7,000 0 0

The expense of the construction of the Water Works may be estimated under the following general heads:

Cast iron main pipe either into deep water into the Bay, or communicating with land springs.

If into the Bay a small coffer dam, made double, to act as a filterer, to prevent adventitious matter from entering the pipe -

A steam engine of at least 10 Horse power -

Two 8-barrel forcing pumps, 8 inch diameter -

A six inch iron main pipe, running from the works to the northern extremity of the City, to supply all other pipes east and west -

10,714 yards of 3 inch wooden pipe 5,004 yards of 3 inch ditto -

Stop cocks, valves, plugs, washers, with tools, &c.

Necessary building for the Steam Engine -

Reservoir containing 500 tons water -

A regular plan and estimate of the above will be necessary, but it is

alleged that it will not exceed - 7,000 0 0

Add for contingencies - 1,000 0 0

Total capital required - 15,000 0 0

Water can be obtained either from the entrance of the Bay or from the land springs north of Toronto.—The water of the lake is adapted for all domestic purposes, and with proper precautions can be obtained in a perfect state of purity. The land springs are HARD, agreeable, but useful for drinking only—they are unfit for washing, making good infusions of tea, boiling vegetables and other culinary purposes. It is also doubtful how far the supply in summer would be equal to the demand. The land springs, however, from the natural height of their sources, will supply the City without the aid of machinery, and will save the expense of a steam engine, &c. It is necessary to remark on this subject that all public water works have in the Old Country either proved a failure, or great losses have been sustained, where soft water has not been used. It is this circumstance principally that the New River Company in London owes its celebrity.

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PROBABLE INCOME.

GAS.

The printed report of the Corporation shows that the probable receipts arising from the Gas Works will be

The subsequent erection of the buildings of the Market Block will add, at least, to that sum

The expenses annually, exclusive of interest - 1,183 2 6
From which is to be deducted Coke & Tar - 274 19 2

Leaving a balance from which interest is to be deducted - 791 16 8

WATER.

It is calculated that the inhabitants of Toronto including Breweries, Distilleries, Hotels, Taverns &c. will pay a water rate amounting to full - 1,750 0 0

It is believed that at least £2,000 is now paid for water, bad as it is.

A rate on the assessed property of the City of 2d in the pound will realize - 600 0 0

Making the annual proceeds of the Gas and Water - 3,141 16 8

Out of which is to be deducted the annual interest of £15,000 at 6 1/2 ct. - 900 0 0

Extra expenses of commission, &c. for paying 6 1/2 ct. in England - 10 0 0

Expenses of conducting the Water-works per annum 700 0 0

Leaving a surplus to pay off the sum to be borrowed - 1,441 16 8

Which will be accomplished in twelve years, without contemplating any increase of income from the extension of buildings in the City, &c.

The propriety of a tax not exceeding 2d in the pound, on the City property will be readily admitted, when it is considered that those of the inhabitants who do not use either the Gas or Water, are still greatly benefitted by it, by the additional security of property at night, by the streets being lighted - by the protection from fire - and the improved health of the City from its cleanliness.

It is a well known fact that Gas lights have been very instrumental in the diminution of the

crime of bank and other robberies, incendiarism and other deeds of darkness. It is a fact equally well authenticated, that the use of Gas has lessened the danger of fire since its introduction, and has reduced the rate of insurance where it has been resorted to.

A supply of water on the instant has produced a similar result. Fires which would have destroyed much valuable property have been arrested in their progress, and the consequent danger is much diminished as to cause a reduction in the rate of insurance nearly equal to the cost of water, a result in this Province most devoutly to be desired.

The next question that presents itself - What is the best method of obtaining the necessary capital? - It is recommended in the first instance to organize a Company based upon the act passed in 1836, for lighting the City with Gas, and to apply for such amendments as may be necessary, in the next session of Parliament.

To appoint a President, Directors and other officers of such of the Inhabitants of the City whose names and characters will afford the best guarantee for the character and credit of the undertaking.

The outlay may be divided into the purchase of such articles as must be obtained from England, such as the gas apparatus, iron pipe, casting, sheet iron for gasometer, &c., and which will probably cost about one half the sum required, or £7,000, and of such items as can be obtained here, viz. the buildings for the Gas and Water Works, tanks, reservoirs, &c., and which will probably cost as much more, or say £7,000.

It is proposed to issue debentures as the money is required, to the amount of the cost of the undertaking in sums of not less than £25 C'y, payable in 18 - - - - -, carrying interest of 6 1/2 per cent, payable half yearly in England. It is believed that an undertaking commanding such an income, in a City which is progressing perhaps in a greater degree than any other on the Continent of North America, with an undertaking conducted by men of the first character in the country, can scarcely fail to be so appreciated that as to its credit no doubt will exist of its ability and determination to keep its engagements, and it is confidently believed that merchants and English iron masters will, under such circumstances, readily supply the Company with such articles as they may require, at a fair market price, taking in payment the above debentures. It is also believed that the merchants and mechanics in Toronto will readily take such debentures in payment for such goods as may be required, for works necessary to be carried on. And it is further believed, that for the purpose of accomplishing an object so important to the welfare and prosperity of the City, and to show their confidence in the undertaking, that many of our merchants will take a certain amount of the debentures at par, with the intention of remitting them to their British correspondents, by which means they will be sure to find their way into the hands of capitalists.

!!! And all this to be effected by 314 In Wooden Mains.